

FISCAL NOTE

HB 501 - SB 1808

March 24, 2005

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the court to enter a parenting plan unchanged when the parents are in agreement. Requires the court to order joint physical custody with legal custody alternating between parents upon the request of either parent when the parents are in disagreement. Grants the court wide discretion in setting the timing and duration of legal custody alternations resulting in substantially equal schedules unless schedule is agreed upon by parents. The court may deviate from any part of such requirements if clear and convincing evidence shows it places a child in substantial harm.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$125,800 One-Time

Other Fiscal Impact – Increase Federal Expenditures - \$244,200 One-Time

Assumptions:

- The Department of Human Services will need to modify the functions of the Tennessee Child Support Enforcement System (TCSES). The Department will contract staff to analyze, program and test the changes to TCSES resulting in an increase of \$370,000 in expenditures (state and federal combined).
- Could decrease child custody/parenting plan hearings, but could increase the amount of time necessary for each hearing. Any impact this bill would have on caseloads for the state courts will be absorbed within existing judicial resources.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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